REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-37 are pending.

Claims 1 and 16-18 are objected to for informalities as indicated in the Office Action.

Claims 6-27 and 34-37 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness.

Claims 1-5, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36 and 37 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Shima (US pub. no. 2002/4802).

Claims 5, 29, 31, 33 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Szlam (US Patent No. 6,359,892).

Claims 6-10, 12-17 and 25 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shima and Szlam.

Claims 11, 18-24, 26, 27 and 35 are allowed, if amended into independent form incorporating the features of the claims from which they depend.

The Abstract is objected to.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-37 are amended.

More particularly, objected to claims 11, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 35 are amended into independent form incorporating the features of the claims from which they depend. Accordingly, claims 11, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 35 stand as allowed.

Thus, claims 1-10, 12-17, 25, 28-34 and 36-37 stand rejected and remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added in this Amendment. The foregoing rejections are hereby traversed.

ABSTRACT

The Examiner objected to the Abstract for not complying with MPEP 608.01. The Abstract is replaced taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. Withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

OBJECTED TO CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 16-18 are objected to for informalities as indicated in the Office Action. Claims 1 and 16-18 are amended taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. Withdrawal of the objections to the claims is respectfully requested.

SPECIFICATION AND CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The specification and the claims are amended to replace the phrases "communication terminal" and "media terminal" with the phrase "phone terminal." Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in the Definition of Terms section in page 1, line 13 to page 3, line 2, of the Application. In particular, the amendments clarify that the present invention relates to packet-switched voice-communication terminals ("phone terminals" or packet-switched phones), such as IP-based telephones, videophones, television conference phones, etc. See, for example, page 37, lines 4-20, of the Application.

35 USC 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, REJECTIONS

Claims 6-27 and 34-37 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. Claims 6-27 and 34-37 are amended taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. Withdrawal of the 35 USC 112 indefiniteness rejections of claims 6-27 and 34-37 is respectfully requested.

35 USC 102 AND 103 REJECTIONS

The claimed present invention is directed to controlling packet-switched voice-communication terminals (hereinafter, phones), such as IP-based telephones, videophones, television conference phones, etc. A benefit of the invention is to allow controlling packet-switched phones that are connected to a packet-switched network or a LAN without having to mount a modem or other network boards on the packet-switched phones. The present invention's control apparatus (claimed recitation "information terminal") is directly connected to each packet-switched phone, and not via a server like Shima's configuration of the image information input-output unit 1 including the web server 2. The control apparatus of the present invention, which is connected directly to each packet-switched phone, controls the phones utilized for voice and/or visual communication, and in contrast to Shima, the present invention does not control office devices, such as printers and scanners.

Each packet-switched phone of the present invention can report its status to the control apparatus ("information terminal). The control apparatus sends control commands back to each

packet-switched phone. The packet-switched phones are operated based on the received control commands from the control apparatus. For example, after a packet-switch phone receives an incoming call, it sends a notice to the control apparatus that an incoming call has arrived, the time the incoming call has arrived, the location of the incoming call, and the caller. The control apparatus can display such incoming call information of the packet-switched phone (see FIG. 13). In another example, the packet-switched phone sends a recorded message list to the control apparatus when it receives a request for the list from the control apparatus. According to the present invention, a control apparatus can control a plurality of packet-switched phones. In contrast, a plurality of control apparatuses can share and control a common packet-switched phone.

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The Shima reference only targets printers and scanners, and does not disclose how to control phones utilized for voice communication at all. In particular, Shima's configuration incorporates a web server 2 in an image information input/output unit 1 to control data transfer between the image information input/output unit 1 and the information terminal 11 (Shima, FIG. 1).

In the Szlam reference, when a remote user wants to call someone via the telephone, the remote user connects a PC 10 to a server at the base location (the controller 225) and then requests the server to make a telephone call via the base location's telephone network (Szlam, column 9, lines 4-61). The Examiner appears to suggest that the server and the base location's telephone network are both "communication terminals." However, the control apparatus (claimed recitation "information terminal") of the present invention directly connects via a packet-switched network to each packet-switched phone and does not need any server (see, page 6, line 21 to page 7, line 1.

More particularly, in Szlam, the PC 10 is in communication with other points 12, 13, 14 and 15 via a modem, a communication link 11 and the controller 225 (see, Szlam, FIGS. 1, 2A, 2B, where the PC 10 is in communication with the controller 225 to control the corporate phones). In contrast, the claimed present invention directly controls packet-switched multimedia phones. In Szlam, FIG. 2A, the PC 10 controls the telephones 217 via the remote access controller 225.

In contrast to Shima and Szlam, the claimed invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36 and 37, using the recitation of claim 1 as an example, provides:

> 1. **(currently amended)** A phone communication control method used in a communication system having a phone terminal and an information terminal, configured for communication on a packet switched network, the method comprising:
>
> sending from the information terminal to the phone terminal an instruction related to control of the phone terminal on said packet switched network, and
>
> controlling from the phone terminal at least one of a phone communication function and a function of the phone terminal, on the packet switched network in accordance with the instruction from the information terminal (emphasis added).

In other words, Shima and Szlam do not disclose or suggest controlling phone communication functions as well as phone functions of a packet-switched phone from a control apparatus in direct network communication with the packet-switched phone.

CONCLUSION

In view of the claim amendments and the remarks, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-10, 12-17, 25, 28-34 and 36-37 and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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